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ANNUAL REPORT

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SANITARY CONDITIONS

of the Rural District of

VAYNOR & PENDERYN,

in the County of Brecknock,

for the Year, 1941

By . . .
W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of Sanitary Conditions of the Rural District of Vaynor and Penderyn in the County of Brecknock, for the Year 1941

By

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Merthyr Tydfil:
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Glebeland Street.

Vaynor & Penderyn Rural District Council

Chairman, 1941—42 :
Councillor Rev. MORGAN JONES, J.P.

Members :

Alderman DAVID HARRIS, J.P.
Councillor DANIEL E. WATKINS.
" EVAN L. LEWIS.
" TUDOR S. DAVIES.
" ISAAC MORRIS.
" W. G. ECKLEY.
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Clerk :

Mr. FRANK T. JAMES,
134, High Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

Medical Officer :

Dr. W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.,
The Hollies, Merthyr Tydfil.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. W. G. BOND, A.R.S.I.,
134, High Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

Treasurers :

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED,
Merthyr Tydfil.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE VAYNOR AND PENDERYN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,—

In accordance with the direction of the Welsh Board of Health, the Annual Report of the Medical Officer is restricted to furnishing the annual statistics indicating the state of the public health of the district during the past year and recording any obvious effects due to the war conditions, and especially in relation to infectious diseases. In general it may be reported that the public health has been well maintained as regards nutrition, and also as to the existence of infectious disease.

Topography.—The rural district consists of three parishes in the southern part of Breconshire. They extend over an area of eight miles long and 12 miles wide, or about 60 square miles.

Area.—

Parish of Penderyn	13,366 acres.
Parish of Vaynor	6,551 acres.
Parish of Ystradfellte	19,355 acres.
Total	39,272 acres.

It will be noticed that the parish of Ystradfellte has the greatest area, but the density of the population was only 0.003 per acre, that of Penderyn was 0.14 per acre, and that of Vaynor was 0.84 per acre. Ystradfellte is very sparsely populated and has only two small hamlets, whereas Penderyn has two villages, and Vaynor two villages.

POPULATION.

Registrar General's estimate of—

(a) Resident population (National Register) ...	5,249
(b) Average population for calculation of death rate	5,249

Number of inhabited houses (30th September, 1941) :—

Parish of Penderyn	469
Parish of Vaynor	862
Parish of Ystradfellte	151
Total	1,482

RATEABLE VALUE.

As on 30th September, 1941 :—

Parish of Penderyn ...	...	£13,177
Parish of Vaynor ...	...	£19,453
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	£6,484
Total	...	£39,114

PRODUCT OF A PENNY RATE.

Parish of Penderyn	...	£55 7 5
Parish of Vaynor ...	...	£75 11 0
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	£27 1 1
Total	... ...	£157 19 6

POPULATION (Census Return).

Census 1931.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Penderyn	973	885	1,858
Vaynor	1,544	1,619	3,163
Ystradfellte	341	309	650
			5,671

Census	Year 1901	Year 1911	Year 1921	Year 1931
Vaynor and Penderyn	4,766	5,526	5,674	5,021
Ystradfellte	—	627	613	650

The decrease from 1921 to 1931 of the three parishes was 9.8 per cent.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The births in the Rural District numbered 65, namely, 32 males and 33 females ; 2 female births were illegitimate. The rate of births on the Registrar General's estimated population of 5,249 was 12.5 per 1,000. In 1940 the birth rate was 17.6 per 1,000, and for the county of Brecon for the same year it was 14.52. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1941 has been announced as 14.6 per 1,000.

Still-births.—There were 5 still-births in the district in the year. There was 1 in 1940 and 1 in 1939. The still-birth rate in England and Wales in 1940 was .55 ; in this district in 1940 the rate was .2 per 1,000 ; in the county of Brecon the rate in 1940 was .76.

Deaths.—The total deaths assigned to this district in 1941, including inward and outward transfers (16 inward and 2 outward) was 78, namely 36 males and 42 females. This yields a death rate on the average population of 14.8 per 1,000. In the year 1940 deaths numbered 75, and the rate was 14.6 per 1,000. In 1938 the rate was16.69 per 1,000. The death rate for England and Wales in 1941 was 12.9 per 1,000. The rate for the county of Brecon in 1940 was 12.9 per 1,000.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.—There was no death assigned to these causes during the year.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.—There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age—3 males and 4 females; none of these deaths were of illegitimate infants. Two of the deaths were stated to be due to premature birth and congenital debility. The rate per 1,000 live births was 107; in the previous year it was 63.0. The rate in England and Wales in 1941 is given at 59. In Breconshire in 1940 the rate was 65.

Deaths from Cancer.—There were 13 deaths from cancer (5 males, 8 females), compared with 5 in the previous year. The total deaths from cancer in the County of Brecon in 1940 was 82.

Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.—There was no such death during the year.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—There were 4 deaths from notifiable diseases (1 diphtheria and 1 cerebro-spinal fever). Deaths from forms of tuberculosis numbered 3 males and 2 females.

CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ...	3	2
Influenza	0	0
Cancer	5	8
Diphtheria	0	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	4	4
Heart Disease	10	13
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	1
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia	2	3
Digestive Disorders	2	1
Nephritis	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Premature Birth	0	0
Malformation at Birth	2	0
Violence	2	0
All other causes	3	4
Totals	36	42

General Sickness.—It will be noted that the death rate for the district appears to be satisfactory, and I have no reason to think that the existing conditions during the war period have had any prejudicial effect on the public health.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Officers.—The Medical Officer of Health possesses the D.P.H. The Sanitary Inspector has the Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute and a certificate for Meat Inspection ; he has one clerk. He also carries out the duties of Sanitary Engineer and Surveyor.

Laboratory Services.—R. Pendrill Charles, Esq., F.C.S. Public Analyst and Bacteriologist, is regularly consulted in matters of water analysis and to furnish other bacteriological reports. Samples of milk are referred to Aberystwyth University College from time to time.

Ambulance Facilities.—Adequate provision is made by the local hospitals, and the Council has made arrangements for such service to the outlying districts.

Nursing at Home.—This is undertaken by voluntary associations, assisted by grants from the County Council.

Clinics are carried on by the County Council for expectant mothers and infant welfare at Cefn and Penderyn.

Hospitals.—Good provision is made in this respect by the General Hospitals at Merthyr and Aberdare, as stated in my last report: there is also the Public Institution Hospital at Brecon. With regard to hospitals for infectious diseases, an arrangement exists whereby cases are admitted to Mardy Hospital at Merthyr, pending the provision of a joint hospital for the County at Brecon, which is to be erected when peace is restored.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—Practically the whole of the district is well supplied with good water from public mains. Cefn Coed, Pontsticill, and Vaynor generally from those of the Taf Fechan Water Board, Hirwaun from those of the Aberdare Council, Pont-neath-Vaughan from Neath, and Penderyn and Ystradfellte by supplies furnished by your Council.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

All the villages in the district have been provided by you with drainage and sewage disposal works, and there only remains the small hamlet of Ystradfellte to have attention. Plans for this place had been completed, and the outbreak of war only prevented their being carried out and so enable you to boast

that the whole of your district has had this very necessary provision made; but the disposal works at Hirwaun are not satisfactory, being old and out of date, and should be replaced by a modern system when possible.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

A daily collection of refuse is made, and the incinerator at Cefn continues to give satisfaction; one at Hirwaun also is desirable when possible.

MILK, MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Farms and dairies have been regularly visited by your Sanitary Inspector, and special attention has been given to other foods supplied under prevailing conditions. There are only two slaughter-houses in the area. In neither of them was any slaughtering done during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN 1941.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	7	1	0
Diphtheria	17	1	1
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	5	0	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	1
Measles	88	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	10	0	0

There were two rapid outbreaks of Measles at Penderyn and Pontneathvaughan. Closing of schools had immediate effect in checking.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality in 1940:—

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory. M	F	Non-Respiratory. M	F	Deaths. Respiratory. M	F	Non-Respiratory. M	F
1 to 5 years ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5 to 15 years ...	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
15 to 25 years ...	1	2	0	4	1	2	0	0
25 to 35 years ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 to 45 years ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 to 55 years ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals ...	2	3	2	5	2	2	0	0

I am not aware of any case of tuberculosis not notified, and there was no occasion for action under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This was undertaken during the year, and 53 per cent. of school children and infants under school age were done, but the proportion of infants under school age presented was disappointing.

HOUSING.

As a result of an appeal for permission to complete eight houses which were in course of erection by the Council at Hirwaun, sanction was given, and the houses were occupied during 1940, making a satisfactory provision for slum clearance and overcrowding at that place.

To carry out the complete scheme of the Council, 74 houses are to be erected at Cefn, in addition to the 44 houses already erected and occupied there, and six houses at Pontsticill, six at Penderyn, and 12 at Pont-neath-Vaughan. The land for these additional houses has been secured, and plans are ready to proceed when permission is given.

Up to the present, 104 houses have been erected in the district by the Council, and 98 remain to be erected under this approved scheme. It is certain that many more will be required, as the standard of housing will be raised everywhere in the future.

EVACUATION.

The Council received 150 Cardiff evacuees during the year. At the end of the year there were 169 evacuees in our area.

Schools.—These have been inspected during the year. Pontsticill School requires considerable improvement which cannot, however, be undertaken under present conditions.

Factories and Workshops.—The report of the Sanitary Inspector on his visits of inspection, and other details, are omitted this year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME		£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward from 31st March, 1940		4634	18	0
Rate Income—				
General Expenses chargeable on whole district	£29254 11 1			
Additional items of General Rate	206 9 6			
		29461	0	7
Special Rates		1291	12	5
Water Rates and Charges (Penderyn)		83	3	3
Water Charges (Ystradfellte)		0	6	0
Ministry of Health—				
Parochial Exchequer Grants		191	10	0
Tithe Act Grant		283	15	10
Ministry of Labour—				
Grant—Penderyn Waterworks		97	12	8
County Council—				
Salaries of Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector—Grant ...		220	0	0
Proportion of Parochial Exchequer Grants		132	15	0
Other Income—				
Rentals of Gardens—Cefn Sewerage Works ...	£0 6 0			
Sale of Hay do. ...	2 15 0			
		3	1	0
Rent of Garden (Cefn Isaf)		0	1	0
Public Convenience (Penderyn)		0	6	6
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts		17	13	4
Extracts from Valuation Lists—H.M.I of Taxes		0	10	7
Searches—Land Charges Register		1	10	0
Petrol Licences		3	5	0
Bank Interest		31	1	4
Telephone Calls		0	4	8
Sale of Salvage		14	14	0
		£36,469	1	2

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1941.—Part I.

EXPENDITURE				£	s.	d.
Due Under Precepts—						
Breconshire County Council				26024	12	0
Breconshire Assessment Committee				40	14	10
Vaynor Parish Council				30	0	0
Penderyn Parish Council				15	0	0
Ystradfellte Parish Council				**81**	**1**	**0**
Other Expenses—						
Cefn Coed Sewerage Works—Working Expenses				343	10	5
Pontsticill Sewerage Works—Working Expenses ...	£158	14	3			
do do. Loan and Interest ...	108	18	6			
				267	12	9
Hirwaun Sewerage Works—Working Expenses ...	174	13	2			
do (Housing Scheme)—Loan and Interest	8	16	6			
				183	9	8
Penderyn Sewerage Works—Working Expenses ...	150	13	4			
do. do. Loan and Interest ..	199	14	2			
				350	7	6
Pontneathvaughan Sewerage Works—Working Exes.	200	14	11			
do. do Loan and Interest	115	9	2			
				316	4	1
Penderyn Waterworks—Working Expenses ...	139	19	8			
do. do. Loan and Interest ...	288	19	8			
				428	19	4
Cross Bychan Water Supply—Loan and Interest				9	13	4
Penderyn Water (Ogof Fawr) do. ...				132	10	9
Children's Playing Field, Cefn Coed—Working Exes.	23	4	1			
do. do. Loan and Interest	22	16	0			
				46	0	1
Financial Adjustment—Loan and Interest ...				458	6	4
Scavening—Vaynor Parish	354	18	2			
do Penderyn Parish	105	10	6			
do. Ystradfellte Parish	30	12	0			
				491	0	8
Notification of Disease and General Disinfection...				53	2	1
Salaries, etc.—Health Services				674	19	1
Public Conveniences—Ystradfellte	15	11	0			
do. Penderyn	0	1	9			
do. Pontsarn	3	5	2½			
do. Pontsticill	0	3	4½			
				19	1	4
Maintenance of Fever Patients				88	1	0
Water Analyses				10	5	2
Milk Samples				1	13	3
Return of Births and Deaths				1	18	0
Housing Acts 1930/36 (Slum Clearance)				32	12	0
Brecon Isolation Hospital (Contribution)				59	5	8
Public Lighting—Vaynor Parish	7	10	0			
do Penderyn Parish	107	12	0			
				115	8	0
Fire Brigades				51	13	7
Additional Rate Fund Contrn.—Housing Rev. A/c.	105	4	0			
Annual Contribution do. ...	319	16	9			
				425	0	9
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts				16	13	5
Salaries of Officers				320	3	4
Valuation Expenses				223	0	4½
Telephone Kiosk, Cefn Coed				2	2	0
Yard and Shed Rentals				15	16	0
Establishment Charges				272	11	9
Salvage—Cost of Collection				22	11	6
Cost of Collection—General Rate	641	3	4			
do. Special Rate	29	0	4			
				670	3	8
Miscellaneous Payments—Roadside Seats	5	12	2			
do. National Insurances ...	33	10	10			
do. Vaynor Nursing Assocn	25	0	0			
do. Other Payments ...	57	16	4			
				121	19	4
Brecon County Council—Superannuation Fund				118	9	8
Ystradfellte Water Supply—Working Expenses				0	7	9
BALANCE carried forward				3921	4	4½
				£36,469	1	2

INCOME.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balances brought forward—		
Water Supply	0 6 0	
Playing Field	834 14 6	
		835 0 6
Small Dwellings Acquisition—		
Repayment of Advances		17 6 8
Housing—		
Loans raised		4981 17 5
Revenue and Special Accounts ...		552 10 1
Other Receipts		33 0 0
Sewerage Works—		
Government Grants		756 18 6
Other Receipt		62 0 1
Balances carried forward—		
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts	4 6 8	
Sewerage	83 11 8	
		87 18 4
		£7,326 11 7

Audited and found correct,

A. R. PARR,

Assistant District Auditor.

EXPENDITURE.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balances brought forward—		
Sewerage	770 10 3	
Small Dwellings Acquisition ...	4 6 8	
Housing	471 0 5	
		1245 17 4
Small Dwellings Acquisition—		
Capital Expenditure		17 6 8
Housing—		
Expenditure on works		3225 5 9
Revenue and Special Accounts ...		199 1 7
Playing Field—		
Loan repaid		802 15 9
Balances carried forward—		
Water Supply	0 6 0	
Playing Field	31 18 9	
Housing	1803 19 9	
		1836 4 6
		£7,326 11 7

FRANK T. JAMES,
Clerk and Chief Financial Officer to the Council.